

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY REGION III

1650 Arch Street Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103-2029

Exemption 6: Personal privacy

Dear Exemption 6

Sorry for taking a while to get back with you about the health effects information you requested with respect to the low level of MTBE (0.6 micrograms/liter or parts per billion) detected in your private drinking water well.

The official EPA document is the Drinking Water Advisory of 20 to 40 ppb based on taste and order studies. Please see the enclosed Fact Sheet (issued by EPA in December 1997) for the summary. The full Advisory report is available at: http://epa.gov/waterscience/criteria/drinking/mtbe.html

Since 1997, EPA had conducted additional health effects research. It is expected that EPA will finalize its risk assessment around June 2007 after going through the review by external scientific experts, such as the National Academy of Sciences.

Many States have established various health-based standards for MTBE. Among them, California set the health-based drinking water standard at 13 parts per billion (ppb) in 1999. California is often considered as a bellwether state for drinking water standard. If you are interested, the technical documents supporting this standard can be downloaded at: http://www.oehha.ca.gov/water/phg/399mtbea.html

Finally, enclosed for your comparison is a list of standards that have been established by various states. The primary (health based) drinking water standards range from 10 ppb to 240 ppb. The detection of 0.6 ppb in your drinking water is relatively low as compared with these standards.

Should you decide to pursue treatment, there are several organizations that can help you with the selection of a treatment unit, such as NSF International, Water Quality Association, and The Underwriters Laboratories, Inc. You can obtain their contact information from the EPA's website - "MTBE in Drinking Water." A copy of the web page is enclosed for your reference.

I hope the enclosed information will be useful to you. Please feel free to call me at (215) 814-5258 if you have further questions.

Sincerely,

Michelle Hoover

EPA Region III

Drinking Water Branch

MillelleMHoover

Enclosures

Exemption 6: Personal privacy

referred by Eldine Virght Supervisor at Doylestown tearage, spillage into local rendential wells small carbon filter at home? is looking into open tranger tower (afraid the pume ont to the premented the filter unit can smell somethy) 8 homes - 6 individual recilence

- 1 office buildy (Dentist office) - Story - 1 motel strip (15- 20 Cabins) his close the

- can hor filter 6/94c

3 capit took in parallel > 6 in total
is outdown, may freeze.

lowest 75 ppb, lighest 6800 ppb

and the Noof (open stower & stryner aerator)

\$4000-\$5000 for the striping unt. \$900 for The coupon felter/
plus \$40/unit for contine weste disposed of filter.

Roy Harytt & Thomas Speth from Cincinnath ORD recommend up to 300ppb - tooppb - GAC (granular activated Contin)

> gir Aturper to followed by gate It is impossible for MIBE policare from the filterion unit! inclosed

The color from the effluent could be TBA, TOF (Breadown of MTRZ) They have weak althorptom to felter. Con use The odor as the

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10/21/2000.

lives in Bules Country Exemption 6: Personal privacy where to get his , well instended? private his well is about 200 feet away from the Lolberry Township Juel tank. He has some concerns. trees died in the yard a there is oil Ait on top of the water if it sits for a while hain smell or taste something like solvent. He has concer nowii.dep. State. pa. 40/labs can select state, to county & VOCI (per DCP saped) EPA 514. 2 MIBE - ASTM D 5790-95 List L SM 6210 D > Std methods 5M 6200 B

SM 6200C >

Lat I Rule Added a more method

[www.dep. etate.pa. us/laps/deputate/mts/bol

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{In Archive} Re: MtBE Contamination in Bucks County
Michelle Hoover to: Roger Reinhart

10/19/2001 04:52 PM

From:

Michelle Hoover/R3/USEPA/US

To:

Roger Reinhart/R3/USEPA/US@EPA,

Archive:

This message is being viewed in an archive.

Roger,

If you don't mind, I can go through the files to extract the information.

Michelle

Roger Reinhart

Roger Reinhart

To: Michelle Hoover/R3/USEPA/US@EPA

10/19/2001 03:57 PM

cc: Subject: Re: MtBE Contamination in Bucks County

Michelle,

This is about the best I could do on such short notice; sorry. I have all the files in my office, if you or someone else needs to review in more detail. Let me know. I'll be out on Monday but back in office on Tuesday.

---- Forwarded by Roger Reinhart/R3/USEPA/US on 10/19/2001 03:55 PM -----

Michelle Hoover

To: Roger Reinhart/R3/USEPA/US@EPA

10/19/2001 12:32 PM

cc:

bcc:

Subject: Re: MtBE Contamination in Bucks County

Hi Roger,

Exemption 6: Personal privacy and thanks for the information. I have a few questions on the MTBE contamination site at Cross Keys and would appreciate your help. I am trying to build the events in chronological orders with more specific info. Some of our telephone conversation was captured for your confirmation. (If you prefer, you could insert your response right below the question by clicking the red ball pen icon on the panel.) I hope you are in today. Otherwise, if you could provide the information next Monday morning, that will be fine too.

Is the Cross Keys intersection in Doylestown, PA located near route 313 and 116? The Cross Keys intersection is located at route 313 (Swamp Road) and old route 611 (Easton Road).

Was the gasoline constituents first identified in on-site monitoring wells about three years ago in early 1999 by both companies? Is there a more specific date, such as month and year available? Both gasoline stations have had a history of leaking USTs. Based on reports in the EPA file, Mobil was monitoring its site as early as June 1989. Results indicated the presence of BTEX and MTBE (as high as 13,000 ug/l). Motiva (formerly Star Enterprise) started sampling as early as March 1992. Results indicated high levels of BTEX compounds. MTBE was not originally sampled for.

What were the actions taken by the gas station owner and PA DEP right after the discovery? Were PA DEP and township folks notified of the release immediately? Each of the facilities worked with PADEP in developing and implementing on-site remediation projects. Verify details with Lauren Mapleton and Barb Bloomfield (PADEP).

When was the case referred to EPA Region III by PA DEP? When were the emergency orders then issued by EPA Region III to Motiva and Mobile respectively? What does this Order specifically require the company to do? (such as requiring Motiva to track the movement of benzene and MTBE in the ground water and/or requiring Motiva and other responsible parties in the area to furnish an alternate water supply.)

(I understand from our telephone conversation that the order required one of the companies to continue to monitor up to 8 homes quarterly for BTEX and MTBE.) Were there any monitoring conducted prior to the quarterly monitoring to narrow down the 8 home? Lauren Mapleton (PADEP) originally referred to EPA a potential Underground Injection Control Issue at Martino's Muffler shop (next door to the Mobil facility) sometime in summer of 1995. EPA subsequently inspected the Martino facility and the Mobil gas station. Mobil thereafter copied EPA on monitoring reports which indicated free product (gasoline) found in a few of its monitoring wells. In an information request, Mobil indicated that there is a community of private wells users within 1/4 mile of the facility. In subsequent meetings with Mobil and PADEP, it was mutually decided that PADEP would continue to oversee the on-sit clean up and EPA would persue the potential endangerment to the private well users. About this time EPA began to investigate the Texaco gas station across the street. After several meetings and phone conferences, EPA issued emergency SDWA 1431 Orders to each of the oil companies. On 12/20/99, EPA issued a Consent Order to ExxonMobil for quarterly monitoring of BTEX and MtBE at eight residences which rely on private water supplies. The eight homes were selected due to their close proximity to the Mobil facility. On 5/5/00, EPA issued a unilateral Order to Motiva, requiring the company to conduct GW monitoring in the intermediate location between the facility and the community of private water supplies. To date none of the monitoring has indicated there is an immediate danger of BTEX or MtBE contamination at any of the private water wells.

Initially, how many private wells were sampled down gradient of each source and what were the results? How many homes were affected from each source? (I understand that there was no appreciable MTBE found in the drinking water samples. 1 ppb was found in one or two of the drinking water samples and most of the levels of MTBE found were less than 4 ppb.) Do you still have more specific levels from the sampling results? Since November 1997, there have been at least six rounds of sampling conducted at the community of private well users. In all about 12 different wells were tested at one time or another. Initial rounds of testing included a wide range of volatile organics. While no appreciable levels of BTEX and MtBE were identified, there were low levels of chlorinated solvents. These same contaminants were known to exist throughout the area; their source not known. More recently, Mobil's consultant has been conducting monitoring on about eight private wells for BTEX and MtBE only. No appreciable levels of BTEX and very low concentrations of MtBE were identified. (Only one well showed a concentration of 4.0 ppb). If you want to review the specific results please contact me.

What actions have been done to resolve this case? (I assume since there is no endangerment to the public health based on the sampling results, there was no need for the company or responsible parties to provide bottled water or carbon filtration to affected homes.) At this point the two companies continue to monitor the ground water. There appears to be no immediate risk of contamination from BTEX and MtBE. Reports are submitted quarterly.

(I understand that the Mobile station pumped the product (MTBE) off.) Any other remediation actions as required by PA DEP that you know about?

Have both stations ceased their operation and when? There had been on-going remediation at both facilities. PADEP can provide the specific details for each. At one time the Mobil facility had pumped free product (gasoline) from a few of its monitoring wells. It was not clear where the product came from (all USTs tested to be OK).

Do we consider this case closed on our part or PA DEP part?

See PAD THANKS	EP for their current invol	g monitoring reports to assure the safety of the private well users. Ivement.
Michelle x4-5258		
Roger Rei	nhart	
	Roger Reinhart 10/18/2001 09:32 AM	To: Michelle Hoover/R3/USEPA/US@EPA cc: Subject: MtBE Contamination in Bucks County
Michelle,		
UST/MtB more clar Pools Co	E cases I am aware of in ification. rner - I contacted Laurer	ation yesterday I have had the following involvement in the three Bucks County, PA. Please call me if you have any questions or nee in Mapleton (PaDEP) and Charles Kominas (ExxonMobil) to establis
adequate	ons each had taken. I wa ly assessed and impacted lanning no additional acti	d water supplies were being addressed. The SDWA Branch is
Bedminst learned th water wel	nat PaDEP was adequate	Fries (PaDEP) and conducted follow-up inspection of the facility. I ely addressing endangerment issue in contaminated
Two gas s respective PaDEP to EPA or	stations owned by Mobil (e USTs. EPA learned tha was actively addre a addressing the health er	at there was a nearby community which relied on private water wells essing the on site cleanups at each of the facilities and agreed to def



Exemption 5: Deliberative process privilege

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{In Archive} Re: Congressional Response

Michelle Hoover to: Jack Hwang

04/17/2001 04:36 PM

Archive:

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Jack,

I revised the letter using redline and strickenout (attached file 1). If you wish, a clean version is provided (attached file 2) for your use. The list of public water systems looks good. I realigned the space a little bit. Please let me know if you have any questions on the revisions. I realized that some terminologies could be confusing, such as non-transient non-community water systems. But that is the official term we use in the drinking water program.

Thanks.

Michelle

R3-0100036C.wpdR3-0100036C clean.wpcR3-0100036C_A.wpd

Jack Hwang

Jack Hwang

To: Michelle Hoover/R3/USEPA/US@EPA

04/17/2001 02:18 PM

Subject: Congressional Response

CC:

Michelle.

Please review and provide comments. Thanks.

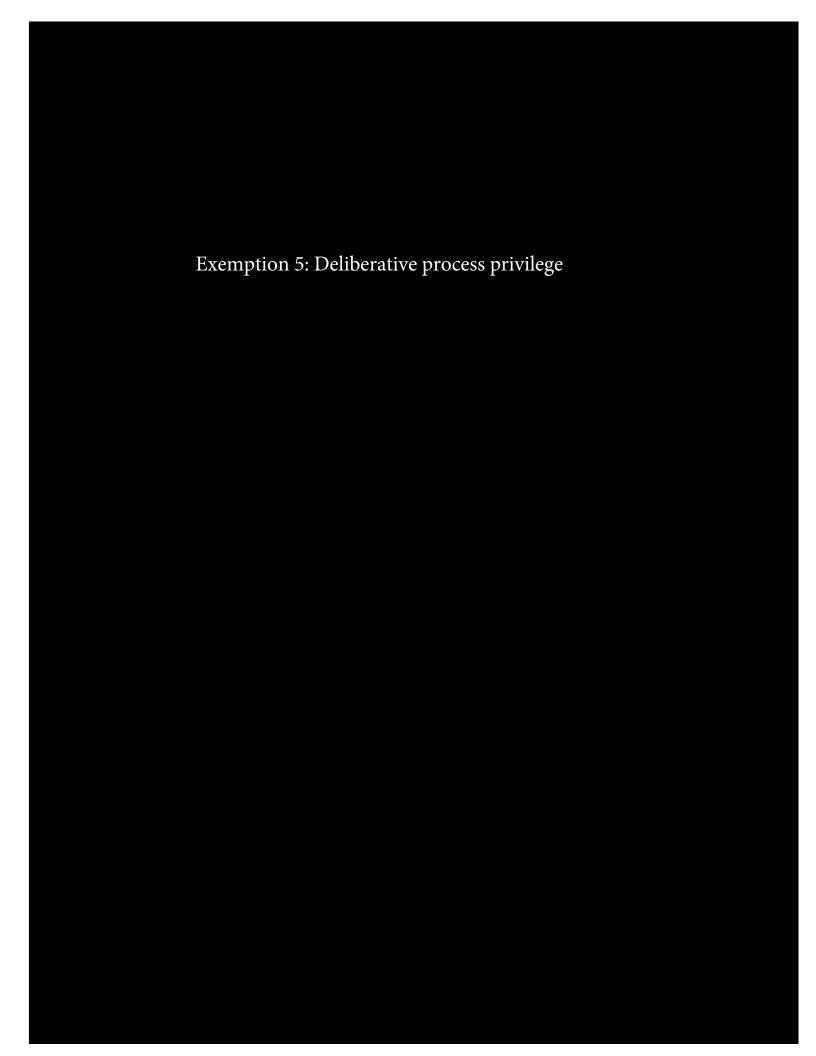
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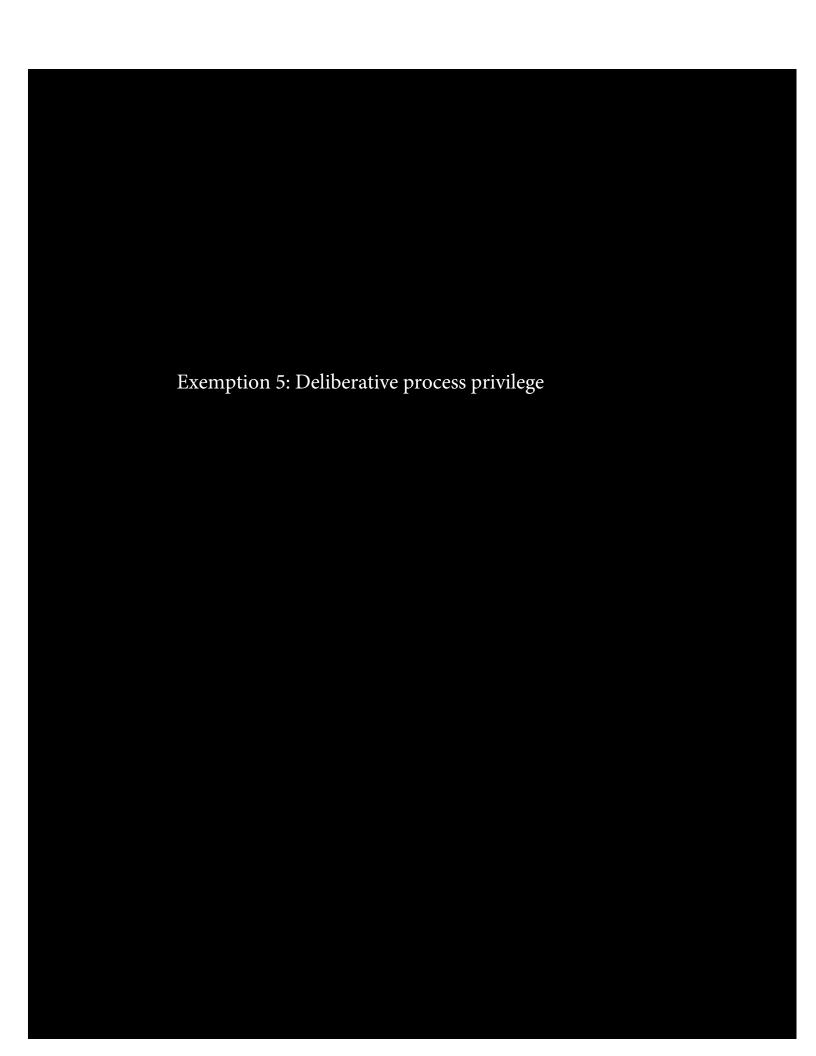
Jack Hwang US EPA Region III in Philadelphia

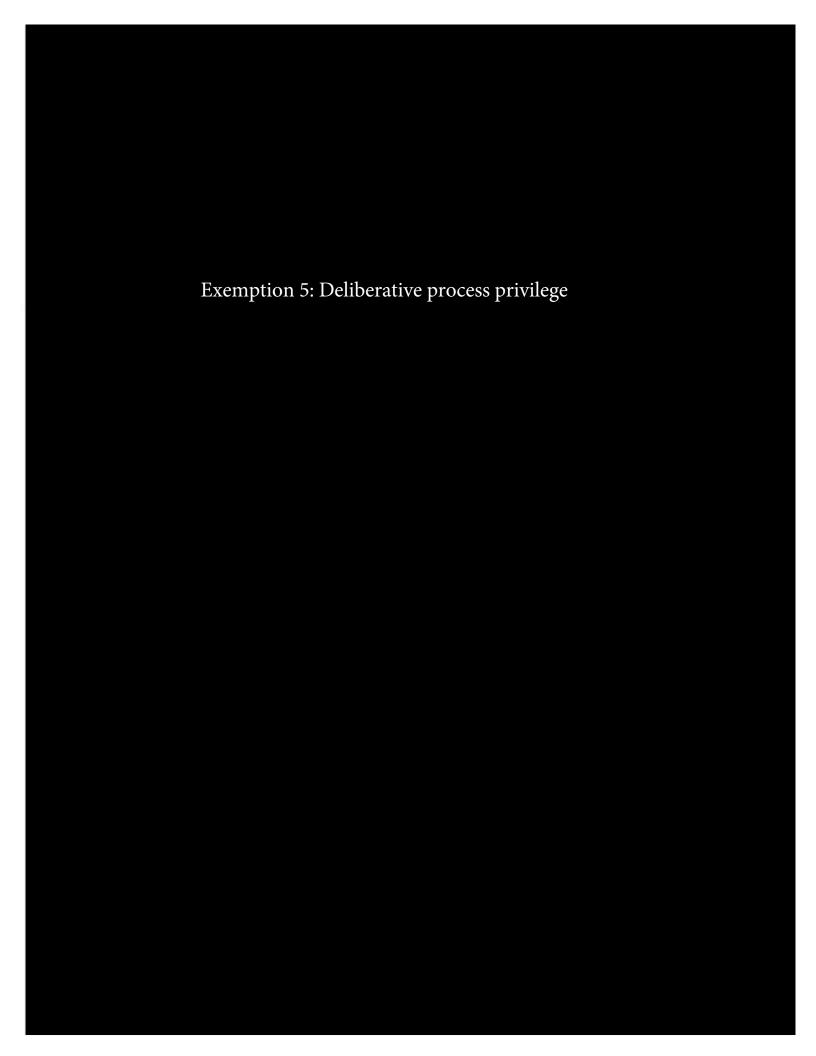
215-814-3387 (Phone); 215-814-3113 (Fax)

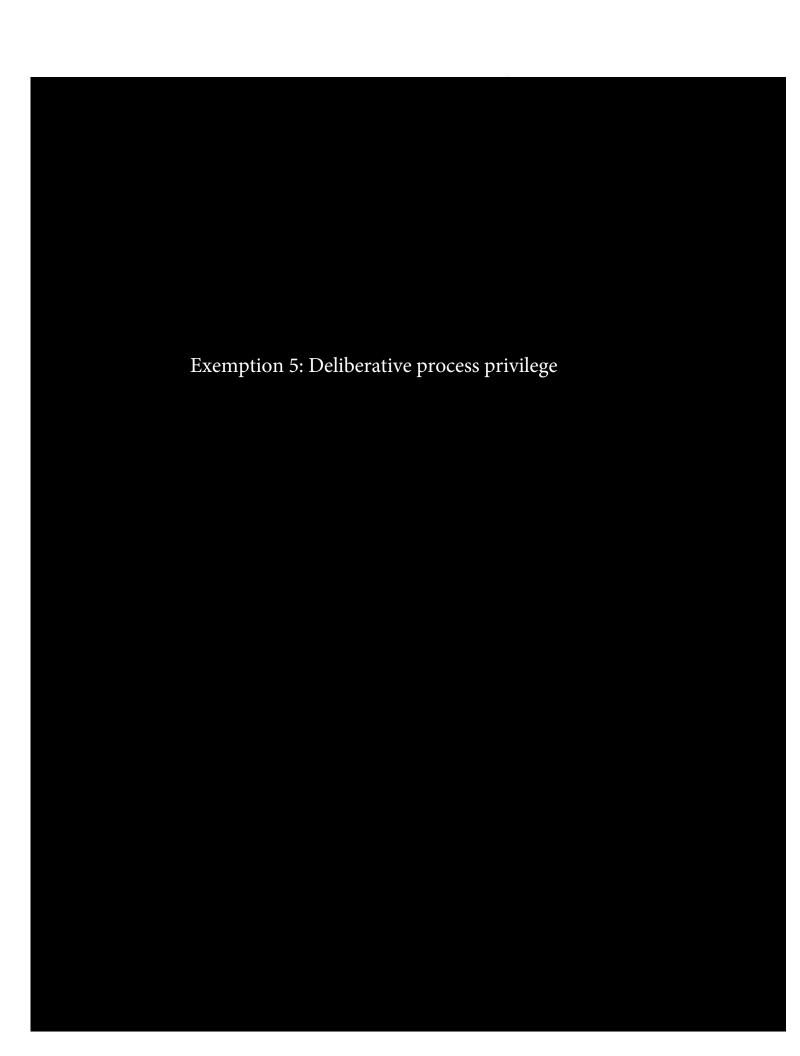
hwang.jack@epa.gov

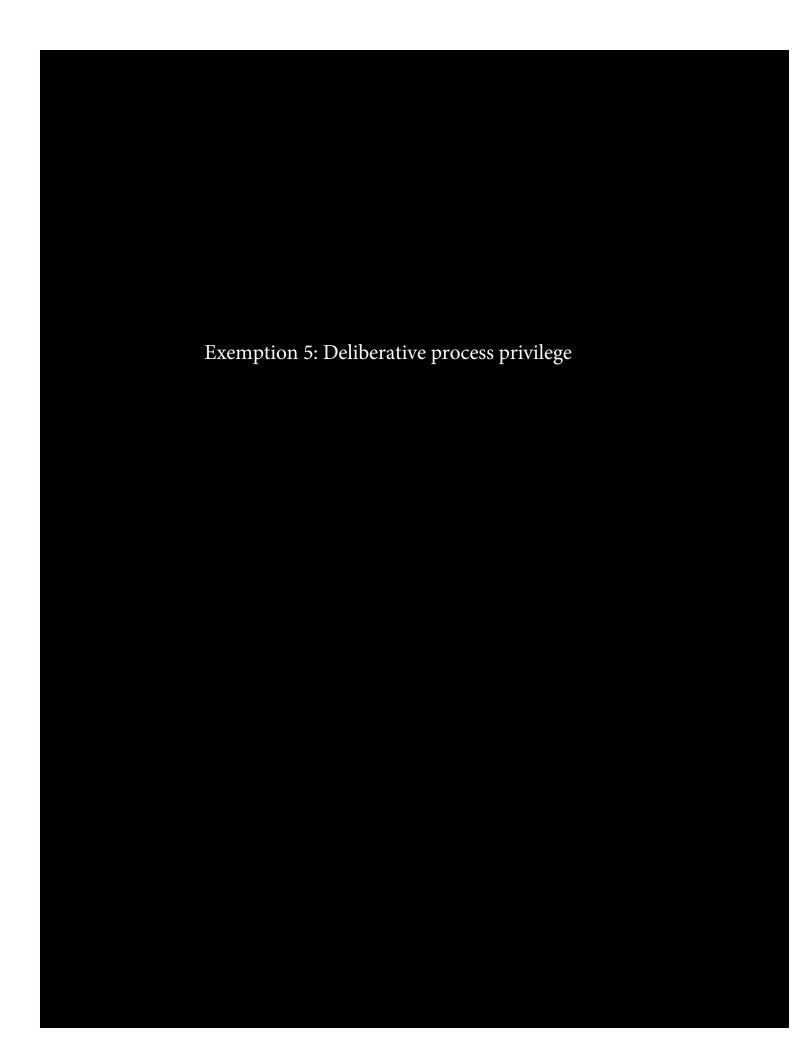
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{In Archive} Congressional Response Jack Hwang to: Michelle Hoover

04/17/2001 02:18 PM

Archive:

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Michelle,

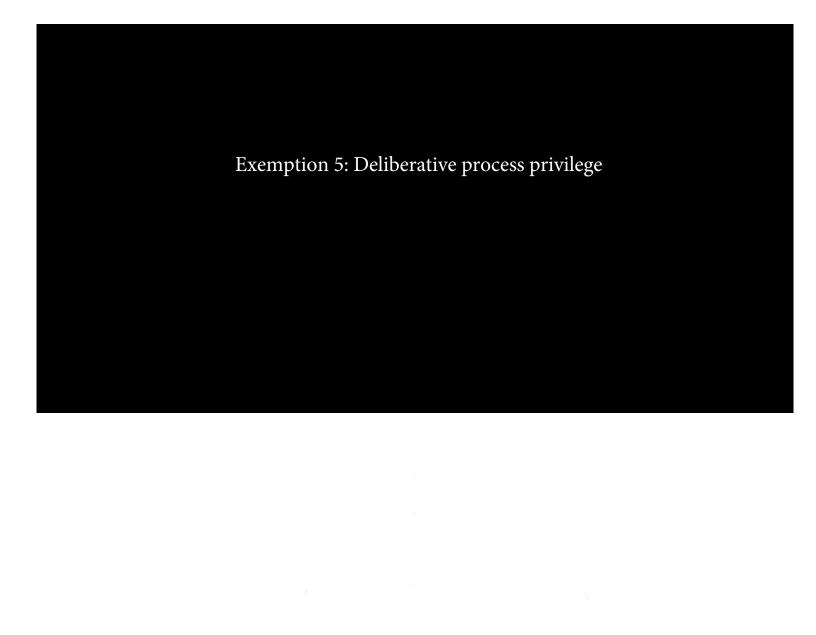
Please review and provide comments. Thanks.

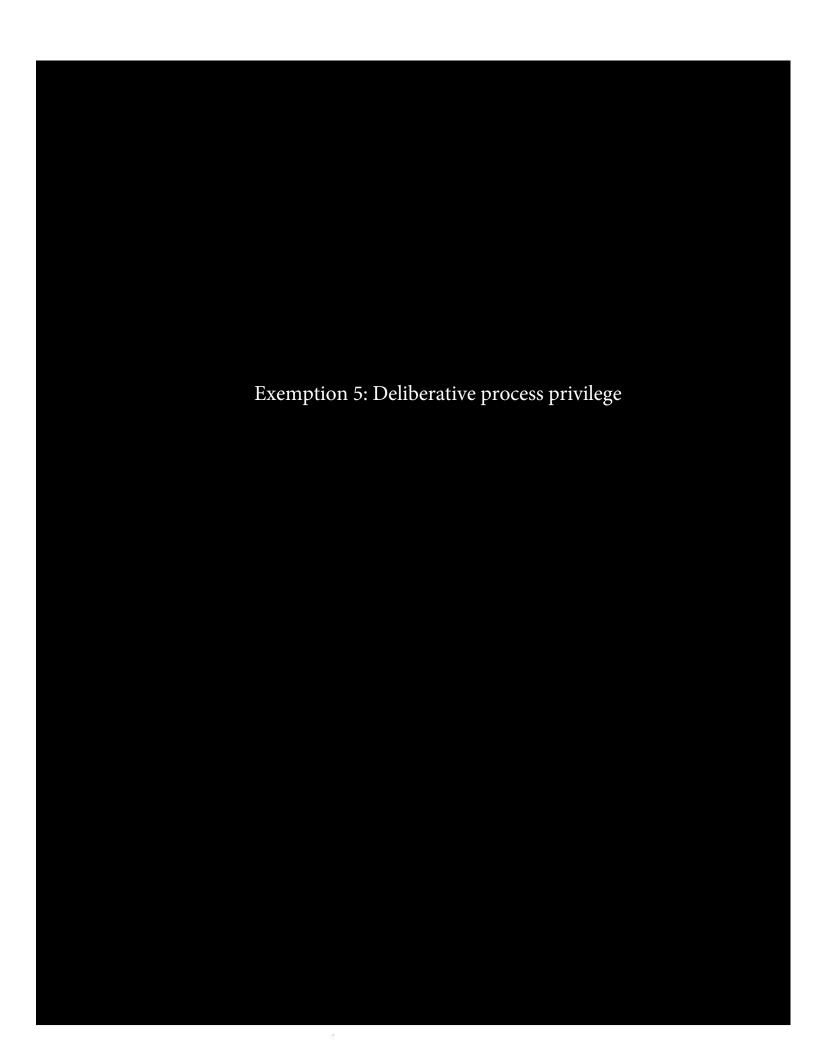


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Jack Hwang US EPA Region III in Philadelphia 215-814-3387 (Phone); 215-814-3113 (Fax) hwang.jack@epa.gov

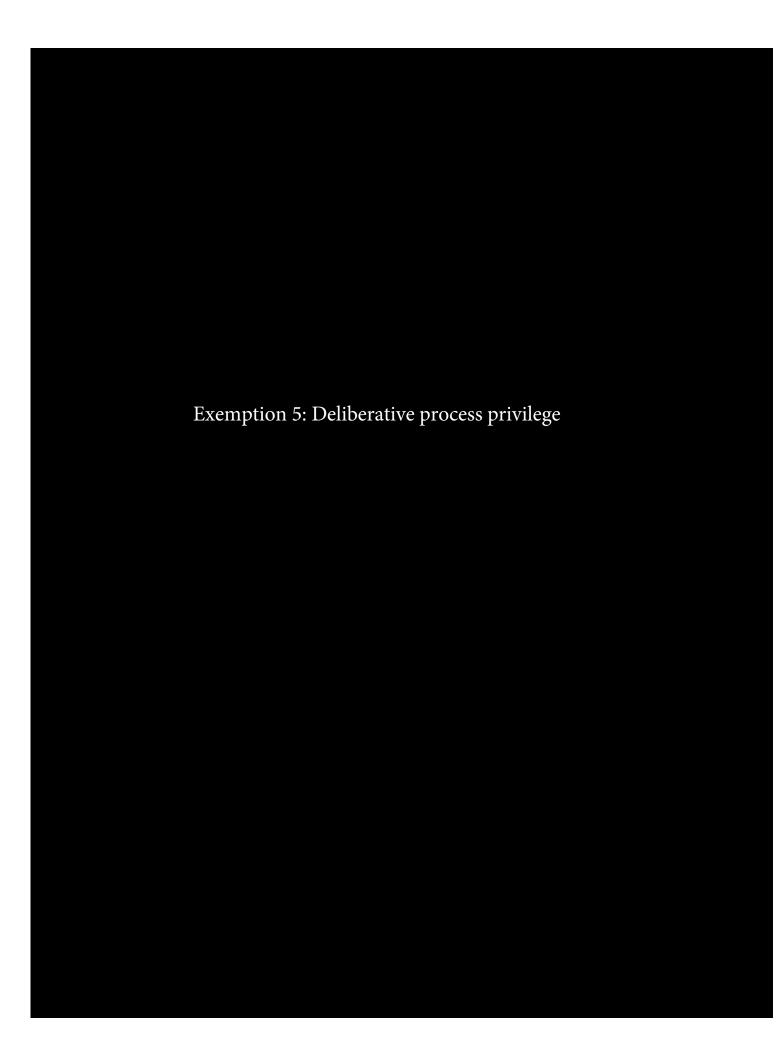


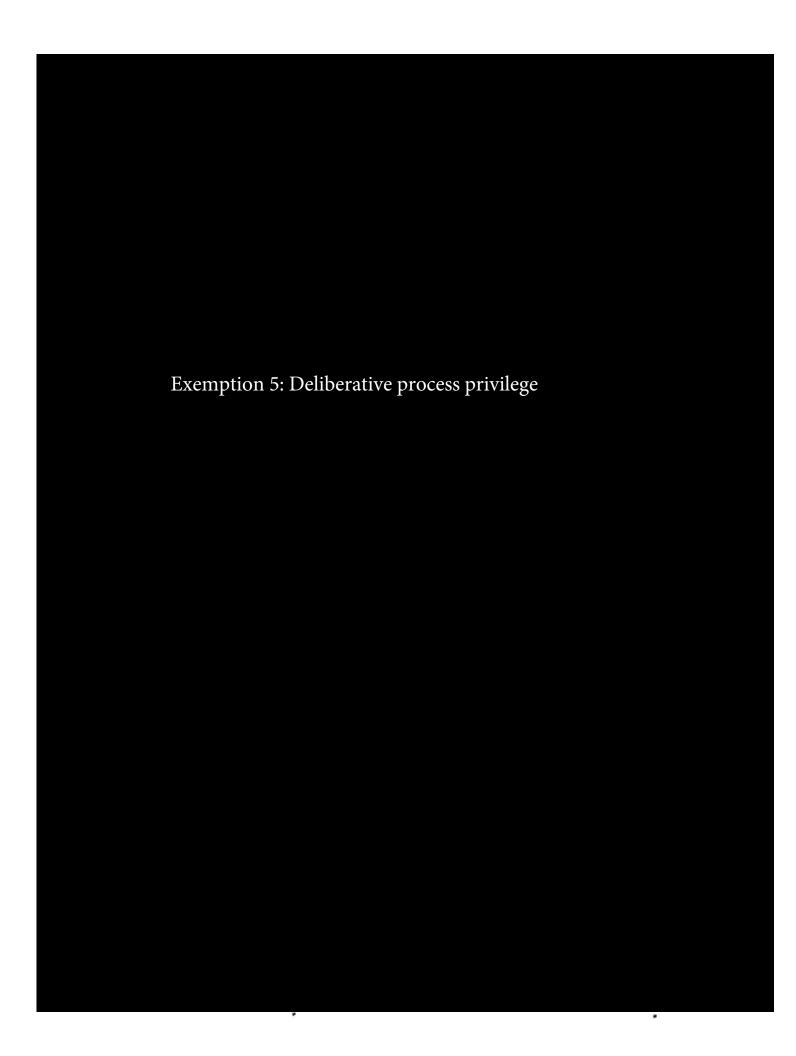


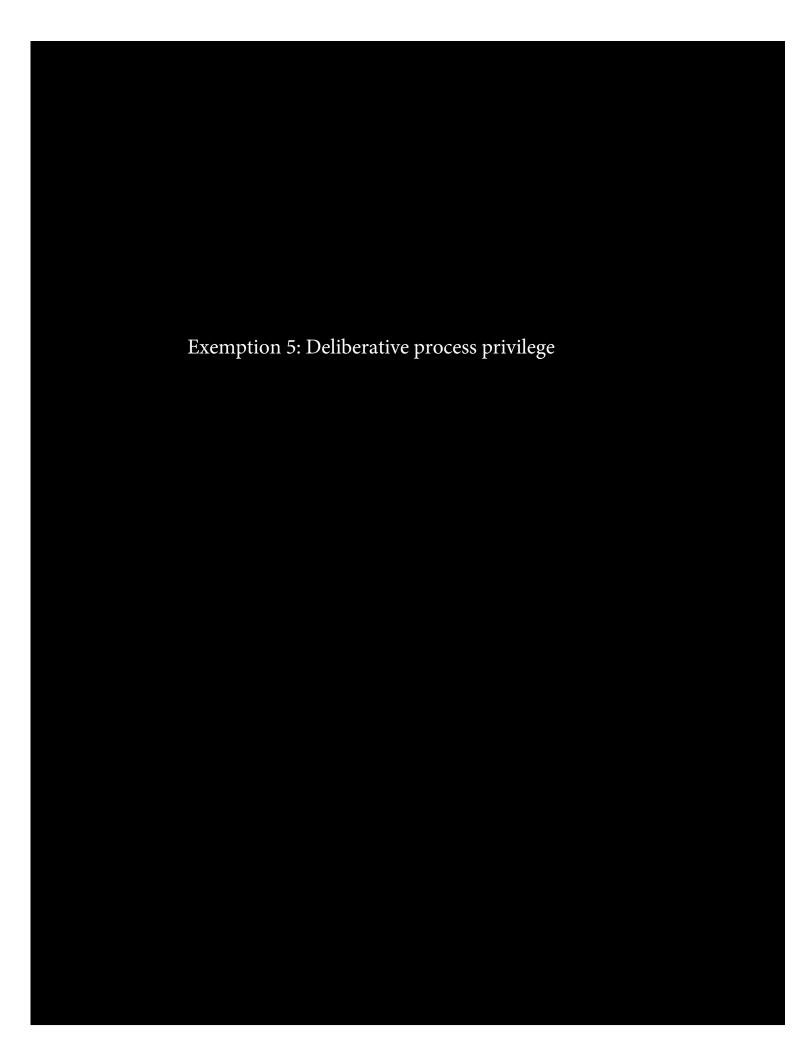


Issue pager Exemption 5: Deliberative process privilege

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Exemption 5: Deliberative process privilege

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(In Archive) RE: Reviewed Submission - MTBE Hearing

O'shell, Donald to: Michelle Hoover 11/02/2001 02:25 PM

From:

"O'shell, Donald" <doshell@state.pa.us>

To:

Michelle Hoover/R3/USEPA/US@EPA,

Archive:

This message is being viewed in an archive.

Thanks - things seemed to go well although Congressman Greenwood did put the pressure on Exemption 7(C). Please see article from BNA.com. Talk to you later.

Don

Air Pollution Remedy for MTBE Contamination Needs To Address Leaking Tanks, House Panel Told

Policymakers seeking to remedy the problem of groundwater contamination from the fuel additive MTBE should focus more on leaking underground storage tanks than the banning of the oxygenate, a House panel was told Nov. 1. The additive, methyl tertiary butyl ether, a petroleum-derived oxygenate, is used in reformulated gasoline, which is required by the Clean Air Act to be used in the summer months in the nine cities with the worst ozone pollution. The House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations heard testimony about the major air quality benefits from gasoline containing MTBE and the drawbacks because the additive has been found in groundwater supplies.

While studies have not shown MTBE to be particularly toxic, its presence in ground water produces a foul odor and taste.

MTBE supporters say policymakers should not phase out the additive but should look to the broader problem of storage tanks that leak, causing the ground water contamination.

"We don't want this stuff leaking into our waters," Tom Adams, president of the Oxygenated Fuels Association, which represents MTBE producers, told the panel.

Moreover, he and others suggested, if MTBE is found in the groundwater, that

could mean the leaking tanks are allowing other pollutants to contaminate the soil and water as well.

Lack of Resources

the leaking storage tanks but say they do not have the resources to deal with the problem and that part of the solution should be the phase-out of MTBE. "We need to do this in a way that the air quality benefits realized by reformulated gasoline will not be lost and in a manner that will not significantly disrupt our nation's fuel supply or force Americans to pay exorbitant prices at the pump, " Denise K. Chamberlain, deputy secretary for air, recycling and radiation protection in the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, said.

State environmental officials concede the problem of

She supported legislation (H.R. 20) introduced by Rep. James Greenwood (R-Pa.), chairman of the subcommittee, that would allow states to waive the 2 percent oxygenate requirement, provide EPA more authority to control or prohibit MTBE or other oxygenates by allowing it to set a performance-based standard, and allow states to ban MTBE pending EPA approval.

EPA Developing Rule

Jeffrey Holmstead, assistant administrator for air at the Environmental Protection Agency, told the panel that the agency is about to conduct an interagency review of a draft proposed rule under the Toxic Substances Control Act that would address a possible reduction or phase-down of MTBE. The rule is not expected to be final for about five years, he said. Greenwood wanted to know if gasoline could be provided that would produce the same air quality benefits without MTBE.

Holmstead said that while air quality objectives could be met without MTBE, the Clean Air Act has a 2-percent oxygenate requirement. Refiners have said they could achieve the same air quality benefits without the 2-percent mandate, but Congress would have to change the law.

"One concern is whether the current performance standard captures all the benefit of oxygenates," Holmstead said.

Fear of Fuel Shortages

Some have suggested that a ban on MTBE would cause fuel shortages and price increases, especially in the summer months. Alternatives, including ethanol, an oxygenate produced from biomass such as corn, exist, but not in sufficient enough quantities to replace MTBE, Robert Kripowicz, acting assistant secretary for fossil energy at the Department of Energy, said.

Between 80 percent and 85 percent of the oxygenate used in reformulated qasoline is MTBE, Adams said.

Robert Dineen, president of the Renewable Fuels
Association, an ethanol
industry group, countered that ethanol could fill the
void. About 2.5
billion gallons of ethanol would be needed to meet
the oxygenate demand in
the U.S. gasoline supply, he said. The current
ethanol producing capacity is
2.3 billion gallons, but 13 plants are under
construction. The California
Energy Commission estimated that ethanol production
would be in the 4
billion gallon range in the next few years.

However, environmental and public health advocates said phasing out MTBE would amount to an "ethanol mandate." Ethanol, they argued, has a higher volatility, producing increased evaporative emissions in the summertime, which can lead to higher ozone levels.

A Serious Problem

"The bottom line is the volatility effect of ethanol is a serious problem, so it shouldn't be mandated," A. Blakeman Early, a consultant testifying on behalf of the American Lung Association, told the panel.

Some criticized Greenwood's bill because it does not contain anti-backsliding provisions, which would ensure that no air quality benefit is lost if MTBE is phased out.

Chamberlain and others testified that more federal help is needed to address

the problem of underground storage tanks.

Michael Ports, speaking on behalf of the National Association of Convenience Stores and the Society of Independent Gasoline Marketers of America, said Congress should authorize \$200 million for states to use to address "high priority releases" from underground tanks such as MTBE, allow money from the Leaking Underground Storage Tank Trust Fund to be used for UST enforcement, and authorize EPA to set up a database to track upgraded tanks and closed tanks.

By Susan Bruninga

Be Vigilant, Be Safe Preventing and Responding to Emergencies http://www.dep.state.pa.us/dep/emergency/response/

----Original Message----

From: Hoover.Michelle@epamail.epa.gov [mailto:Hoover.Michelle@epamail.epa.gov] Sent: Friday, November 02, 2001 12:53 PM

To: doshell@state.pa.us

Subject: Re: Reviewed Submission - MTBE Hearing

Don,

Thanks for the information. I accepted the edits from your regional offices and resubmitted the revised version to our HQs yesterday.

Michelle Hoover EPA Region III Drinking Water Branch (215) 814-5258

"O'shell,

Donald"

To:

Michelle

Hoover/R3/USEPA/US@EPA

<doshell@stat

cc:

e.pa.us>

Subject:

Reviewed Submission - MTBE Hearing

10/31/2001

12:19 PM

Michelle:

Some of our regional folks reviewed what you submitted to EPA central office. They made a "few" changes/suggestions. I am not sure if you would want to amend your version and resubmit it at this late date or not.
But please be aware - FYI.

Don

<<EPA Testimony for Greenwood Hearing 10-31-01.rtf>>

Be Vigilant, Be Safe
Preventing and Responding to Emergencies
http://www.dep.state.pa.us/dep/emergency/response/

(See attached file: EPA Testimony for Greenwood Hearing 10-31-01.rtf)



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY REGION III 1650 Arch Street Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103-2029

December 11, 2000

Exemption 6: Personal privacy

Dear Exemption 6

As you requested, enclosed is information on home drinking water treatment units, in particular, the air stripping unit for removing MTBE from the drinking water.

Enclosure 1 is published by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection. Please see page 25 (aeration) and page 29 (Appendix A) for the information.

Enclosure 2is from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Web site that provides general information on MTBE and its removal from the drinking water.

Enclosure 3 and 4 are two sources for home treatment unit information if you wish to pursue further in selecting a unit for your home.

Please feel free to call me at (215) 814-5258 if you have more questions or need additional information. I hope everything goes well with your newly purchased house.

Sincerely,

Michelle Hoover EPA Region III Drinking Water Branch

Enclosures